DRAFT 10/15/76

White Oak Quarters: AA-344A

This one-and-a-half-story frame house was built in the last quarter of the 19th century as a dwelling for a tenant farmer and family. The shed kitchen was added in the 1930's. The original block, having approximately the same width and length as a one room slave house, was partitioned downstairs into one room into which the fireplace opened and which was the room for cooking, eating, and socializing. The other room was more private and was used presumably as a bedroom. The upstairs was unpartitioned. This house reflects some of the continuities and changes in housing from slavery to tenancy.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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NOMINATION FORM for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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CHECK ONE

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Cap- 2010

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small, one story, frame house with a A roof stands at the edge of a forest and is dwarfed by a huge oak tree that shades it. In front of the house are corn fields. The house stands alone and is gradually deteriorating. The original front elevation consists of a door and a window; another window is on the northern gable end. The back of the house has no openings. On the southern gable end a shed kitchen was added in recent years, as evidenced by the newer construction materials and confirmed by the present owner who remembers its having been built.

The house has been sheathed in red brick asphalt siding for functional and aesthetic reasons. Underneath the siding are clapboards that were mill sawn and attached with wire nails. The foundation of the house consists of brick pilings (about a foot high), hewn sills, and circular saw cut sleepers measuring 2"x6". They appear to be original and their excellent unweathered condition suggests that the structure is not old enough to be a slave house. The interior is bisected into two small rooms by a partition of unjoined vertical planks fastened to the floor and joists above by wire nails. The walls were panelled by horizontal 1"xh" boards, also attached by wire nails. The ceiling was exposed; the joists were 2"x6" planks cut by a circular saw like the sleepers.

The open fireplace was made of bricks and used originally for cooking before the shed kitchen was built. Unlike other small tenant houses with a kitchen addition, this one did not have a door connecting the living quarters and the kitchen. This arrangement must have been an inconvenience, especially in inclement weather, for one had to go outside to go between the kitchen and living quarters.

The narrow and steep stairway with deeply worn treads was sheathed by vertical plank siding. A board and batten door closed off the bottom landing. The stairway was CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

9-7-34-2

PERIOD	AF	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW						
_PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION				
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE				
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE				
_1600-1699	<u>X</u> ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN				
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER				
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION				
·_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY _INVENTION	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)				
SPECIFIC DAT	ES	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT					

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

enclosed probably for aesthetic reasons as well as to prevent dust and dir from dropping from the stairs upon the food being prepared at the hearth below. The enclosure also diminished the escape of heat up the stairwell and increased privacy.

The upstairs is one open room. The ceiling is enclosed by horizontal apboards. Where e eaves had rotted, one could see that the rafters were commercially cut, similar to the joists and sleepers. The roof is wood shingled.

According to Kenneth Owens, the present owner and descendant of the antebellum owners of the farm, there were no other houses built nearby.

Conclusion:

There is no evidence that this structure was built prior to 1865. All of the construction material -- the sleepers, joists, and clapboards, and nails -- appear to be original and are late 19th century. Nevertheless, this dwelling is similar in design and dimensions to slave houses and reveals the continuity in housing and living conditions from slavery to tenancy.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY	
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLA	APPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
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TI FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME TITLE	12/75
George W. McDaniel, Surveyor	DATE
Maryland Commission on Afro-American	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE .
12 West Madison Street	301-383-3648
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Baltimore	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State C

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438



White Oak Farm Tenant

Truse, or White Oak Quarter "

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West Elevation